



## NGC News

### NGC Grades Special Release 2015 US Marshals Service Commemorative Coins

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*NGC offers bilingual Early Releases and First Releases labels in Chinese and English. These labels have now been updated with a new, larger design! Click [here](#) to see the new labels.*

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### NGC Introduction to Grading Class at Whitman Winter Expo

*NGC will be offering its popular Introduction to Grading class at the Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo on Saturday, November 1. Register today! A few seats are still open.*

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2014 marks the 60th anniversary of one of the more bizarre episodes in American numismatics.

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## World Coins: Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares

*What is quite remarkable about the Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares is the existence of numerous patterns, trials and other issues struck from dies that are of both mint and private origin.*

[Read this article...](#)

## Chinese Coins: Silver Panda Starter

*By Peter Anthony*

*Of the large variety of Panda coins available, the silver Panda is the most popular series among collectors.*

[Read this article...](#)

## From the NGC Archives: 1924 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle

Generally acclaimed as the most beautiful of United States coin types, the 1907–33 \$20 piece was created by famed American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

[Read this article...](#)

## Stack's Bowers Announces Pogue Collection Auction Dates

The D. Brent Pogue Collection is laden with rare and unique coins, including many that are the finest known of their date and variety.

Stack's Bowers Galleries is please announce the projected 2015 auction dates for these treasures.

[Read this article...](#)

## Baldwin's Numismatics Moves to 399 Strand

Renowned numismatic dealer and auctioneer A.H. Baldwin & Sons is delighted to announce that the company will join Stanley Gibbons in their newly renovated, bespoke premises on the Strand, London, starting Monday, October 27.

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# NGC Grades Special Release 2015 US Marshals Service Commemorative Coins

Posted on 10/15/2014

*To mark the 225th anniversary of the US Marshals Service on September 24, Richard A. Peterson, deputy director of the US Mint, distributed 35 three-coin sets to employees of the service. NGC has had the honor of grading two such sets.*

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) has graded two sets of 2015 US Marshals Service 225th Anniversary commemorative coins released for a celebration ceremony on September 24, 2014. This is believed to be the first time the US Mint has issued coins during a year prior to the date on the coins.



2015 S 50C  
US Marshals Service  
*Click images to enlarge.*

On September 24, 1789, President George Washington appointed the first 13 agents to the US Marshals Service, the nation's oldest law enforcement agency.

To mark the US Marshals Service's 225th anniversary on September 24, Richard A. Peterson, the Deputy Director of the US Mint, distributed 35 three-coin sets to employees of the Service. The three-coin sets included a Proof 2015-S US Marshals Service Clad Half Dollar, a Proof 2015-P US Marshals Service Silver Dollar, and a Proof 2015-W US Marshals Service Gold Five Dollar.



2015 P S\$1  
US Marshals Service  
*Click images to enlarge.*

The limited special release of the 2015 US Marshals Service 225th Anniversary coins this year was allowed under the Act of Congress, signed into law on April 2, 2012, that authorizes these commemorative coins. The Act stipulates: "The Secretary may issue coins, to the public, minted under this Act beginning on or after January 1, 2015, except for a limited number to be issued prior to such date to the Director of the United States Marshals Service and employees of the Service for display and presentation during the 225th Anniversary celebration."



2015 W \$5  
US Marshals Service  
*Click images to enlarge.*

NGC received the three-coin sets from Chief Inspector Scott Sanders and Senior Inspector Oscar Blythe of the US Marshals Service. Both coin collectors, Sanders and Blythe first had the idea for a US Marshals commemorative coin in 2007 and worked closely with Congressional aides, the US Mint, the US Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and others to make these coins a reality.

Sanders and Blythe, who were required to first purchase the coins from the US Mint, received the three-coin sets at the groundbreaking ceremony for the US Marshals Museum on September 24 along with a hand-written note from US Mint Deputy Director Peterson. NGC has given the coins the pedigree “September 24, 2014 Celebration Ceremony” in recognition of their special limited-edition release.

“The US Mint’s release of 2015-dated coins in 2014 is a particularly significant event for numismatists,” says Richard S. Montgomery, president of NGC. “It is an honor to have received these important coins directly from Sanders and Blythe, the two people who first had the idea for a US Marshals commemorative coin.”

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# NGC On-site Grading at Whitman Winter Expo

Posted on 10/14/2014

*Stop by the NGC booth 1953 to drop off your submissions.*

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins\* at the [Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo](#), in Baltimore, MD from **Thursday, October 30, 2014 to Friday, October 31, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.** Regular submissions will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 1. **Cut off times may change due to submission volumes.** NGC will be at booth 1953.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

## On-Site Services include :

<b>Silver Dollar Tier</b>	<b>\$30 per coin</b>
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Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at \$500 and under (5-coin minimum).

*Coins must be in flips.*

<b>Gold Special</b>	<b>\$50 per coin</b>
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Gold coins valued at \$3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).

<b>Value WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$65 per coin</b>
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Coins valued at \$1,500 and under.

<b>WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$100 per coin</b>
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Coins valued from \$1,501 to \$100,000.

<b>Expedite WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$150 per coin</b>
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Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 and under.

*Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.*

<b>High-Value WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$200 per coin</b>
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from \$100,001 to \$500,000.	

<b>Unlimited Value WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$500 per coin</b>
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above \$500,000.	

<b>Show ReHolder</b>	<b>\$15 per coin</b>
A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.	

## **NCS CrossOver**      **\$10 per coin**

A coin in an NCS holder is [NGC Details Graded](#).

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at [service@NGCcoin.com](mailto:service@NGCcoin.com) or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Early Bird, Economy, Bulk, Special Designations, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

## Special Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, Kennedy Half Dollar 50th Anniversary Commemoratives, 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame Commemoratives, 2013 American Buffalo One Ounce Gold Reverse Proof, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early/First Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- The \$5 CrossOver special does not apply for on-site grading.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins.

at trade shows.

\*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

**NGC is the official grading service of the ANA and PNG.**

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# Grader Finds Rare Mint Error in a Bulk Submission of Morgan Dollars

Posted on 10/14/2014

*A routine bulk submission was interrupted when an NGC grader discovered a multiple cracked collar — a rare 1896 Morgan Dollar mint error.*

An NGC grader was surprised to find a rare mint error while evaluating an otherwise routine bulk submission of common date Morgan Dollars. The 1896 Morgan Dollar features a multiple cracked collar visible at 1 o'clock, 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock at the edge. It is most prominent from 6 o'clock to 9 o'clock, where the collar has partially sunk away, leaving a raised edge that is partially devoid of reeding.



1896 Morgan Dollar Mint Error  
*Click images to enlarge.*

Broken collar mint errors are the result of the collar, which imparts the edge design (in this case reeding), wearing down during use, cracking, and eventually breaking off. In this case, however, the collar has not fully broken off and instead a piece from 6 o'clock to 9 o'clock has started to sink away from the rest of the collar.



1896 Morgan Dollar Mint Error Edge Detail  
Left: Coin photographed on a concave mirror  
*Click images to enlarge.*

When this coin was struck, the metal stretched to fill the recesses created by the sunken collar, which has caused the reeding on the edge at the collar break to appear elongated. The reeding is obscured at the 18 in the date.

Collar breaks are seldom seen, particularly on Morgan Dollars. The NGC certification label identifies the location of the collar breaks on this mint error.

Every coin that NGC receives is carefully evaluated for authenticity and grade as well as major varieties and mint errors. This attention to detail is the same for every coin regardless of its value or the grading tier selected by the submitter—and occasionally it results in extraordinary discoveries.

This mint error, for example, was unattributed and submitted as part of a bulk submission of Morgan Dollars. A sharp-eyed NGC grader, however, noticed its significance and set it aside for further research. Attributed by NGC as a mint error, this coin is likely to fetch thousands of dollars in the marketplace.



1896 Morgan Dollar Mint Error  
*Click images to enlarge.*

NGC offers bulk submission rates to NGC dealers and Collectors Society Elite members for eligible coin types. A bulk submission is considered to be 100 or more coins of the same type. Learn more about [bulk submission rates](#).

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# NGC Grades Scarce GSA Soft Pack Seated Liberty Dollar

Posted on 9/25/2014

*This GSA Soft Pack 1864 Seated Liberty Dollar is only the second of its kind to have been graded by NGC.*

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) has graded what is believed to be one of just a handful of Seated Liberty Dollars to have been packaged in a “GSA Soft Pack.” The 1864 Seated Liberty Dollar was purchased directly from the US General Services Administration (GSA) in 1976 and was recently submitted to NGC, where it was graded NGC XF 40 and encapsulated in a special holder designed to accommodate the original GSA packaging.

When the US discontinued the redemption of silver certificates for silver dollars on March 25, 1964, the Treasury was left with a hoard of silver dollars in its vaults. Many of the silver dollars had collector value and from 1973 to 1980 the GSA held a series of auction and fixed price sales of these coins.



1864 GSA Soft Pack Seated Liberty Dollar NGC XF 40  
Obverse  
*Click images to enlarge.*



1864 GSA Soft Pack Seated Liberty Dollar NGC XF 40

Reverse

*Click images to enlarge.*

Uncirculated silver dollars, primarily Morgan dollars struck at the Carson City Mint, were sold in rigid plastic holders with a black insert (“GSA Holders”), while the circulated silver dollars—or those with significant toning and bagmarks—were sold in soft plastic holders (“GSA Soft Packs”).



1864 GSA Soft Pack Seated Liberty Dollar NGC XF 40

*Click images to enlarge.*

According to the government’s packaging, the GSA Soft Packs included either Morgan or Peace dollars. This 1864 Seated Liberty Dollar was likely packaged in error, however, and was extensively documented in the numismatic press when it was purchased directly from the GSA in 1976. It is thought that fewer than 100,000 GSA Soft Packs were sold and that the number of GSA Soft Packs released with Seated Liberty Dollars was in the single digits. This is only the second GSA Soft Pack Seated Liberty Dollar to have been graded by NGC. NGC began to grade and encapsulate GSA Soft Packs in April 2007. The coins are not removed from the original GSA packaging and are instead encapsulated in a special NGC holder that bears the “GSA SOFT PACK” pedigree and the coin’s grade. Similarly, the rigid “GSA HOARD” Morgan dollars and soft “US MINT

SEALED" Eisenhower dollars are graded by NGC in their original government holders.

NGC was the first third-party grading service to grade "GSA HOARD" Morgan dollars, "GSA SOFT PACK" dollars and "US MINT SEALED" Eisenhower dollars in their original government packaging, preserving these important pieces of numismatic history. The special pedigrees are reported separately in the NGC Census.

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# NGC Introduces Chinese Early Releases and First Releases Labels

Posted on 9/23/2014

NGC offers bilingual Early Releases and First Releases labels in Chinese and English. **These labels have now been updated with a new, larger design!**

**Click [here](#) to see the new labels.**

NGC will begin to offer Chinese and English bilingual labels for its popular Early Releases and First Releases designations. These attractive red labels feature “CHINA” in the background along with EARLY RELEASES /早期发行 or FIRST RELEASES /首期发行 next to the NGC logo at the bottom.



NGC uses the Early Releases and First Releases designations to identify a coin that was received by NGC within 30 days of its release. These popular

designations recognize that many collectors prefer to purchase modern coins soon after their release.

The 2015 Panda and Year of the Goat series will be among the coins eligible for NGC's Early Releases and First Releases labels if submitted within 30 days of their release.

Early Releases and First Releases coins are grouped together under the Early Releases designation in the NGC Census and their population appears beneath the non-designated issues.



The submission instructions listed below must be followed when submitting coins for the Chinese/English Early Releases and First Releases labels.

## Submission Instructions:

- Coins for Early Releases or First Releases must be submitted under the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Label/Releases**.
- To request the Chinese **Early** Releases label (shown below), write "Chinese Early Releases Label" on the submission form.



OR

- To request the Chinese **First** Releases label (shown below), write “Chinese First Releases Label” on the submission form.



- Remove the coins from the Mint packaging and submit them raw in flips or in capsules. Coins being sent directly to NGC or an Official Submission Center do not need to be accompanied by original packaging or shipped in sealed Mint boxes, but must arrive within the first 30 days of their release by the mint.

Dealers and Elite Collectors Society members should contact [Scott Heller](#) at NGC for bulk submissions.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at [service@NGCcoin.com](mailto:service@NGCcoin.com) or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646).

Collectors Society paid members can submit their coins directly to NGC. Not an NGC Collectors Society member? Paid memberships start at just \$39/year. Join as a Premium member, or upgrade to Premium membership, and you'll receive a coupon to have five coins graded for free. [Join today](#).

For more information about the Chinese New Year special labels currently available, please visit [NGCcoin.com/labels](http://NGCcoin.com/labels).

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United States



# NGC Identifies 2 New Malaysia Doubled Die Varieties

Posted on 10/14/2014

*Two Malaysian double die coins are now included in NGC's list of recognized varieties.*

This month NGC has added two new Malaysian doubled dies to its list of recognized varieties. The first is a 1980 Sen with a doubled die obverse. The doubling is the strongest on the denomination, the date, and the Hibiscus flowers to the right of the date.



Malaysia 1980 Sen with a Doubled Die Obverse  
*Click images to enlarge.*





Malaysia 1980 Sen with a Doubled Die Obverse Close Ups of Doubling  
*Click images to enlarge.*

The second coin is also an obverse doubled die. This time it is on a 2008 5 Sen. The doubling is rotated and very strong on nearly all of the devices. It is very reminiscent of the highly prominent doubling on the United States 1955 Doubled Die Obverse Cent.



Malaysia 2008 5 Sen with a Doubled Die Obverse  
*Click images to enlarge.*



Malaysia 2008 5 Sen with a Doubled Die Obverse Close Up of Doubling  
*Click images to enlarge.*

NGC routinely adds new varieties to its list of recognized types. Collectors may submit new varieties for evaluation and possible attribution, or they can contact NGC for more information.



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United States



# NGC-certified \$1M Chinese Coins to be Displayed in Macau

Posted on 10/9/2014

*A China 1898 Hunan Pattern Silver Dollar, graded by NGC and recently sold for over US \$1 million, will be on display during the Macau Numismatic Society Show in November.*

A Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) certified China 1898 Hunan Pattern Silver Dollar, which recently sold for over US \$1 million, will be on display in Macau on November 29 in a special event sponsored by Champion Auctions in conjunction with the Macau Numismatic Society show. The finest of only six known examples, this important coin has not been seen publicly since it was sold at auction in 1975. It is graded NGC SP 67 as pedigreed to “NC Collection/Champion.”



China 1898 Hunan Pattern Silver Dollar  
Click images to enlarge.

The 1898 Hunan Province Pattern Dollar with a dragon design was unknown to numismatists until it was sold in the 1975 Paramount sale of the Heaton Mint archives. At the time, this coin achieved a world record price and became the first Chinese coin to sell for more than US \$10,000.

Michael Chou, of Champion Auctions, and a client jointly purchased this extraordinary coin in a private sale earlier this year for a price that exceeded US \$1 million after the coin was graded by NGC. It will be exhibited at Champion Auctions' Special Numismatic Display at the Ponte 16 Sofitel Macau Hotel on November 29 in conjunction with the Macau Numismatic Society show, held annually in November.

"NGC-certified Chinese coins sell for higher prices because Chinese buyers have greater confidence in NGC's grade and guarantee," says Chou. "My client and I were willing to pay a seven figure sum because of the peace of mind that comes from NGC grading."

This rarity is the third NGC-certified Chinese coin to break the US \$1 million barrier. The first was the 1910 Yunnan Spring Dollar graded NGC AU 55, which sold for US \$1,062,000 in August 2010 by Champion Auctions as part of its sale of the Ultima Collection. Champion Auctions will also showcase this NGC-certified 1910 Yunnan Spring Dollar at its Special Numismatic Display in Macau.

A year after it sold the 1910 Yunnan Spring Dollar for more than US \$1 million, Champion Auctions sold a 1992 Compass 2,000 Yuan Gold Kilo (Serial #6), graded NGC PF 69 Ultra Cameo, for a world-record price of US \$1,298,000. NGC is currently the only third-party coin grading service to have certified Chinese coins that have subsequently sold for more than US \$1 million.

"NGC offers the strongest guarantee of grade and authenticity for Chinese coins as well as the most accurate and consistent grading," says Steven R. Eichenbaum, CEO of NGC. "As a result, NGC-certified vintage and modern Chinese coins achieve record prices at auction and in private treaty sales."

To view the million-dollar NGC-certified 1898 Hunan Province Pattern Dollar and the 1910 Yunnan Spring Dollar, visit Champion Auctions' Special Numismatic Display at the Ponte 16 Sofitel Macau Hotel on November 29 during the Macau Numismatic Society show, held November 28-30 at the Kam Pek Community Centre. Champion Auctions will host a sale on November 30 that will include more than 100 NGC-certified coins from the NC Collection and more than 50 NGC-certified coins from the JC Lee Collection. For more information and to bid, visit [cghka.com](http://cghka.com).

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# NGC Introduction to Grading Class at Whitman Winter Expo

Posted on 8/22/2014

*NGC will be offering its popular Introduction to Grading class at the Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo on Saturday, November 1. Register today! A few seats are still open.*

NGC will conduct its popular Introduction to Grading class on Saturday, November 1, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the [Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo](#) in Baltimore, MD. The cost to attend the class is \$149 for paid NGC Collectors Society members and \$199 for Free Collectors Society members and non-members (new attendees only) who register. Classroom space is provided courtesy of the Whitman Expo.

Introduction to Grading will cover a variety of important grading topics including proper lighting, the subtleties of About Uncirculated versus Mint State, counterfeit detection, the differences between strike versus wear and the key attributes commonly considered to constitute positive eye appeal.

The class will be taught by NGC grader John Schuch, II. John joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 9 years, advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins. He has taught numerous grading classes at the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar.

Here's what a few past attendees have said:



John Schuch, II, NGC Grader

The son of a coin dealer, John grew up around coins. He started working summers for his father at the age of 15, bird-dogging coins for dealers. After high school, he worked full time for his father's business. At 20, John

*Very educational.*

*Live grading rounds were excellent.*

*Was worth it!*

The class is limited to 20 students and is available on a first-come basis. New attendees only. **Advance registration is required.**

**Paid NGC Collectors Society members**  
click [here](#) to register.

**Free Collectors Society members and non-members** click [here](#) to register.

You will receive an email with payment instructions.

If the class is full, email [class@ngccoin.com](mailto:class@ngccoin.com) to be added to a Wait List. You will be contacted if space becomes available.

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enlisted in the Army and served for four years. After leaving the Army, he decided to pursue numismatics as his career. He joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 10 years, rising up the ranks advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins.

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# NGC Registry News

Posted on 10/14/2014

*The NGC Registry continues to grow. Check out the newest US and world sets, and be sure your own collection is participating in the 2014 Registry Awards.*

## US Sets

- US: Type Sets: 21st Century Type Set, Mint State Only
- US: Half Dollars: Early Half Dollars, 1794-1836, complete by All Overton Varieties and Die States
- US: Half Dollars: Early Half Dollars, 1794-1836, complete by All Overton Prime Varieties

## World Sets

- Andorra: Silver 10 Diners, Goddesses of Love Series, 2012, Proof
- Australia - Bullion: Kookaburra, Gold \$2, .5g, 2014-Date, Mint State
- Canada - Lunar: Silver \$5, (2014-Date), Proof
- Spain: Silver 5 Euros, Provincial Capitals Series, 2010-2011, Proof
- Vietnam: South Vietnam: 1953 Essais, Complete
- Vietnam: South Vietnam: Type Set, 1953-1975, Circulation Issue

Also, here is just a sample of some of the new slots we have added this month:

- Australia - Lunar Set Name: Lunar Coins, Silver Dollars, Series Two (With Colorized), 2008-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015P YEAR OF THE GOAT
- Australia - Lunar Set Name: Lunar Coins, Silver Dollars, Series One and Two (With Gilt and Colorized), 1999-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015P YEAR OF THE GOAT
- Australia - Lunar Set Name: Lunar Coins, Silver Dollars, Series One and Two, 1999-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015P YEAR OF THE GOAT
- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Kookaburra Silver 1 Ounce, Mint State Slot Name: 2015P S\$1

- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Kookaburra Silver 1 Ounce, Including Varieties, Complete Slot Name: 2015P S\$1 KOOKABURRA 25TH ANNIVERSARY MS
- Canada - Commemorative Set Name: Silver \$15, 1992-Date, Complete Proof Slot Name: 2015 YEAR OF THE SHEEP
- Canada - Commemorative Set Name: Silver \$15, 1992-Date, Complete Proof Slot Name: 2015 SCALLOP YEAR OF THE SHEEP
- Macau Set Name: Silver Lunar Series, 2008-2019, Proof Slot Name: 2015 YEAR OF THE GOAT S20P – COLORIZED
- Macau Set Name: Silver Lunar Series, 2008-2019, Proof Slot Name: 2015 YEAR OF THE GOAT S100P – COLORIZED
- Tokelau Set Name: Silver \$5, 2012-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 YEAR OF THE GOAT MA PF
- Tokelau Set Name: Silver \$5, 2012-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 YEAR OF THE GOAT PF – COLORIZED
- Tokelau Set Name: Silver \$5, Lunar Coins, 2013-Date, Complete Slot Name: 2015 YEAR OF THE GOAT MA PF

Start your collection now, and participate in the [2014 NGC Registry Awards](#). Find an NGC Registry category that interests you, and add your certified coins. Our judges will evaluate all sets as of December 3, 2014. Ensure your set is at its best by 5pm ET on December 3, to be automatically considered for awards. If you're not familiar with the [NGC Registry](#) take some time to explore it, and see the many collecting options that are available—it's free!

We have started to add new 2015 slots to the NGC Registry sets. Do you own a certified coin that needs a slot in the Registry? If so, please shoot us an email, and let us know. We are happy to add it for you.

If you don't see the set categories that interest you, drop us a note and let us know. Reach us by e-mail at [registry@NGCcoin.com](mailto:registry@NGCcoin.com). We look forward to seeing your coin collection in the 2014 NGC Registry competition.

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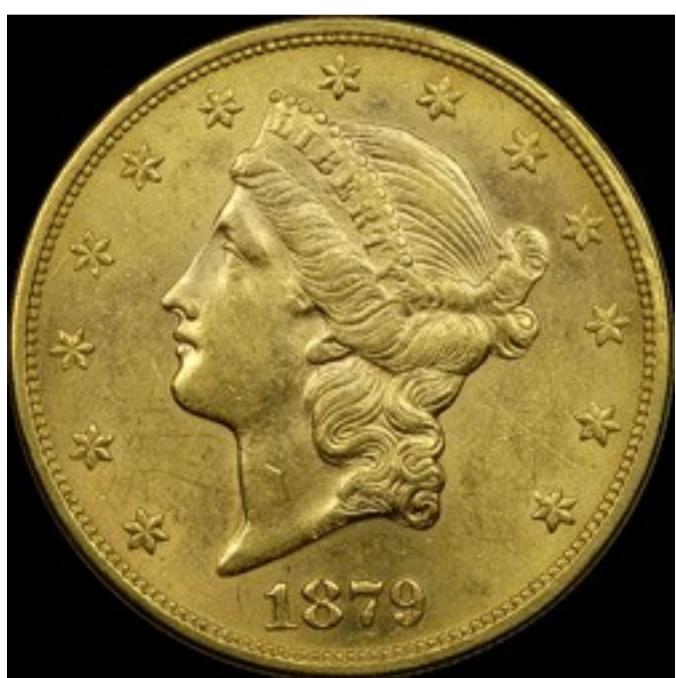
# Counterfeit Detection: 1879 Double Eagle

Posted on 10/14/2014

*Repeating marks on this 1879 Double Eagle made it easy to identify the coins as a counterfeit.*

One of the most important methods of counterfeit detection is the identification of depressions, tool marks, or other issues that repeat in the exact same places on multiple coins. It is simply not possible for two coins to circulate and subsequently exhibit depressions (the terms used for “marks” in the context of counterfeits) in identical locations. These repeating marks can be extremely useful to determine authenticity and examples on other coin types continue to be found by NGC graders and other numismatists.

Many repeating depressions used to identify counterfeits have been known for decades, but forgeries that feature these diagnostics continue to be seen in the marketplace today. One example is this spurious 1879 Double Eagle, which was recently submitted to NGC for authentication and grading.



Counterfeit 1879 Double Eagle  
Click images to enlarge.

Several decades ago numismatists identified a number of 1879 Double Eagles that all had depressions and flaws in the exact same locations. The issues included a depressed diagonal line through the E in LIBERTY with damage below the letter, a notch at the top loop of the 8 in the date, a depression between the D in UNITED and the S in STATES, and a large area of tooling above the DO in DOLLARS. Some of these issues were on a genuine coin that was copied to make counterfeit dies while other issues, such as the tool marks, were added to the die by the forger.



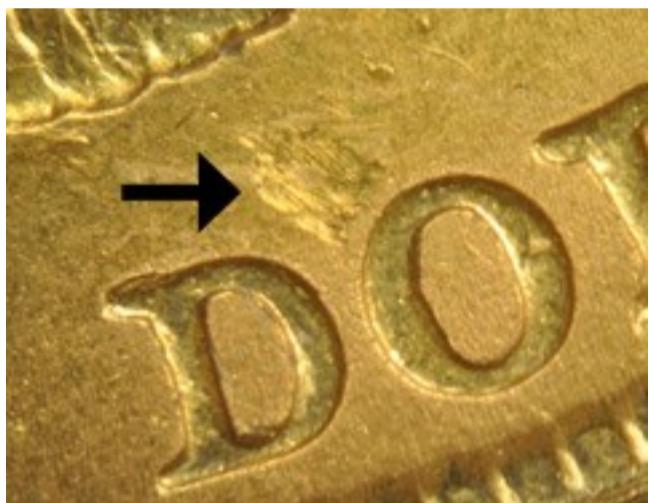
Counterfeit 1879 Double Eagle Close Up  
A depressed diagonal line through the E in LIBERTY  
with damage below  
*Click images to enlarge.*



Counterfeit 1879 Double Eagle Close Up  
The date, with a notch in the 8  
*Click images to enlarge.*



Counterfeit 1879 Double Eagle Close Up  
Depression between the D in UNITED and the S in STATES  
*Click images to enlarge.*



Counterfeit 1879 Double Eagle Close Up  
Tool marks above the DO in DOLLAR  
*Click images to enlarge.*

This is a fairly deceptive counterfeit so the presence of numerous repeating issues makes detection significantly easier. Collectors can find a wealth of information about known repeating diagnostics on the NGC website as well as in articles published in the American Numismatic Association's *The Numismatist*. A number of the articles from *The Numismatist* published in the late 1970s and early 1980s identified the repeating depressions commonly seen at the time and many of these same fakes are still routinely found in NGC submissions decades later.

Interested in reading more articles on Counterfeit Detection? Click [here](#).

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 United States



# USA Coin Album: An Infamous Anniversary

Posted on 10/14/2014

*2014 marks the 60th anniversary of one of the more bizarre episodes in American numismatics.*

Before addressing the exact subject of this column, I want to preface it by saying that I have in my numismatic library many odd and forgotten publications that rarely appear within the bibliographies of more prominent and popular books. Some of these monographs may have caused a stir when published, only to recede into obscurity with the passing of years. Some are quite old, while others are recent enough that persons still active in the hobby will recall them when the titles are mentioned. Among the little gems in this latter category is a monograph written and published by Dwight H. Stuckey in 1982 titled *The Counterfeit 1944 Jefferson Nickel*. My copy is signed by the author and dated “May – 1982,” but I have no recollection of when or where I acquired it.



Stuckey tells the tale of one Francis Leroy Henning of Erial, New Jersey, who briefly gained notoriety in 1955 when he was caught counterfeiting several dates of Jefferson nickels. His counterfeiting actually seems to have been perpetrated mostly during the previous year, but it did not become public knowledge until the following spring. Henning, who was 64 at the time of his capture, had used a mechanical transfer process to create six obverse dies of different dates and a single reverse. These were used in combination to produce the five dates known to exist: 1939, 1944, 1946, 1947 and 1953. The sixth date was never determined, and all of his nickels had no mintmark. Of course, anyone familiar with the Jefferson series will see immediately how at least one of Henning’s products was spotted as false—all 1944 genuine nickels, regardless of mint, carry a large

mintmark above the dome of Monticello.

Indeed, it was coin collectors who first reported counterfeit 1944 nickels circulating in or around Camden, New Jersey, in the southern part of the state. Not only did the 1944 pieces lack the requisite mintmark, they were seemingly of the same copper-nickel composition as normal nickels. Unfortunately for Henning, who was clearly not a numismatist, the nickels coined from late 1942 through 1945 were of a copper-silver-manganese composition that became rather dark in circulation and looked quite different from worn copper-nickel pieces.

Perhaps the first person to report a counterfeit 1944 nickel was Harmon K. Rodgers, a New Jersey resident and a coin collector. He contacted the Secret Service as early as October of 1954, and further counterfeit nickels were brought to the attention of various banks in the Camden area by other collectors. A sampling of these pieces, \$2.40 worth according to Stuckey, was submitted to the Secret Service in December by a teller at the Pennsauken National Bank named Emil Bissig. All had been turned into the bank by local coin collectors, as yet the only persons who were not being fooled by the fakes. Other dates in their possession included 1946 and 1947 nickels.

In consultation with the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia, agent Robert J. Motto was told by Mint Clerk Margaret Bainbridge that wartime nickels were made of a different composition than the usual one and that this certainly accounted for the slightly off color reported by collectors for the suspect nickels. Amazingly, she added that the Philadelphia Mint doesn't normally use mintmarks, so their absence on the 1944 pieces was not a cause for alarm! It seems that Henning wasn't the only person to be uninformed about the wartime issues.

Collectors continued to insist that the coins were fake, and one individual, Walter Williams of Merchantville, New Jersey, sent three samples dated 1944, 1946 and 1947 to Rae Biester, Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint. She forwarded them to Mint Director William H. Brett in Washington, DC, and Brett had the coins analyzed. They were found to be both overweight and slightly oversize.

The Secret Service was now convinced that it had a problem on its hands, and letters were sent to banks in the Camden area to be on the lookout for phony nickels. Few were found, as bank tellers lacked sufficient numismatic knowledge, and the fakes were clearly good enough to fool most people. In frustration the agents then began contacting coin clubs around the country, and the Secret Service briefly considered placing an announcement in *The Numismatist* before rejecting the idea. It turned out that all of the counterfeit nickels were still surfacing in the Camden-Philadelphia area. At the May 23, 1955 meeting of the Camden

Coin Club, agents Abel and Clemens were in attendance and were shown multiple examples of several dates. A reporter learned of this meeting, and the story was soon in all of the area newspapers.

This publicity spooked Francis Henning, and he fled to Cleveland, dumping his remaining supply of fake nickels in Cooper Creek near Haddonfield, New Jersey. His makeshift mint was discovered in August, when a worker sent to clean out the building vacated by Henning found an assortment of metalworking machinery and some 67,000 blanks for making nickels. Now that agents had a name to go with the coins, Henning was apprehended just weeks later in Cleveland. Ironically, Henning was a known counterfeiter who had been routinely investigated a couple of times during the nickel search without anyone becoming suspicious. He ended up getting additional prison time for printing fake \$5 notes while in Cleveland!

*David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).*

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United States

# World Coins: Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares

Posted on 10/14/2014

*What is quite remarkable about the Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares is the existence of numerous patterns, trials and other issues struck from dies that are of both mint and private origin.*

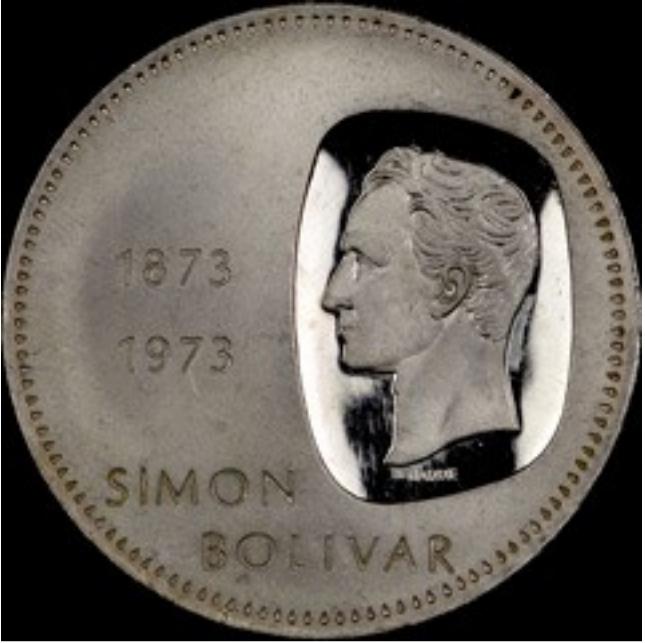
The Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares coin is not only an interesting commemorative piece, but a great study in numismatics.

The Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares was the first commemorative coin of Venezuela. It was struck to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Simon Bolivar's depiction on Venezuelan coinage. Simon Bolivar was the liberator of Venezuela and was celebrated on Venezuelan coins since 1873.

The 1973 commemorative was struck in silver—the piece was not intended for circulation as the silver greatly increased the value of the coin over the stated face value. While the coins are quite abundant with a mintage of 2,000,000 business strikes, the proof mintage was only 200 pieces.



Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares MS  
Click images to enlarge.



Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares PF  
*Click images to enlarge.*

What is quite remarkable about the Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares is the existence of numerous patterns, trials, and other issues struck from dies that are both of mint and private origin. Known examples of such pieces include a reverse die trial strike on a square lead planchet, a reverse hub impression (uniface strike in silver), a “mule” using two reverse dies to strike a piece in silver, a reverse die strike with “ENSAYO METALOR C.A.” on the reverse in silver, and a 1973 10 Bolivares with an incuse “M” in a circle on the reverse (listed as KM-PPN2).



Venezuela Lead Trial Strike  
*Click images to enlarge.*





Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares Mule  
*Click images to enlarge.*

The piece with “Metalor” on the reverse is quite interesting. Metalor is a metal refining company located in Los Angeles. Being that a reverse die was used in striking a piece with “Ensayo,” or essai, on the reverse with the company name it is likely that at one point the company had the die or dies for the coins and it is also likely that KM-PPN2 with the circled “M” could also be a Metalor production.



Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares KM-PPN2  
*Click images to enlarge.*

Probably the most interesting piece associated with the Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares is a medallic striking of a defaced Iranian coin die. Struck in copper, the piece is made from a defaced Iran 1971 2500th anniversary of Persian Empire 200 Rials dies. The defacing was accomplished by grinding marks in the fields on the obverse and removing the Arabic script and denomination on the reverse. The piece was struck with the edge lettering for the Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares coin which reads, “CENTENARIO DE LA EFIGIE DEL LIBERTADOR EN LA MONEDA.” This piece was noted in the Ottawa Coin Club bulletin of December 8, 2009, where it was stated that the Royal Canadian Mint had struck both the

Iranian coins and the Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares coins. It is unknown if the defaced dies from an Iranian 1971 coin were used as trials for the Venezuela 1973 collar and edge lettering application, or if the dies and collar were deaccessioned and this piece was struck privately using such parts.



Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares Medallic Striking on an  
Iran 1971 2500th Anniversary Persian Empire 200 Rials Die

Left to Right: Obverse; Reverse; Coin photographed on a concave mirror to show edge lettering  
*Click images to enlarge.*

Coins provide endless opportunity for study. The Venezuela 1973 10 Bolivares coin is an excellent example.

The Gamboa collection was the study for this article and contains all known examples of the varieties mentioned above. However, it is always possible that new pieces will surface in the future, providing more insight into this issue.

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# Chinese Coins: Silver Panda Starter

Posted by Peter Anthony on 10/14/2014

*Of the large variety of Panda coins available, the silver Panda is the most popular series among collectors.*

A gem of a show takes place in Las Vegas twice a year (September and April). The Las Vegas Numismatic Society is the sponsor and CK Shows manages the events. I was lucky to be invited to the September show as a speaker.

Most of the audience was just getting started with Panda coins so it seemed worthwhile to go over some basics. Here is what we discussed. Pandas are among the most popular coins in the world today. In 1982 the China Mint sold around 140,000 Panda coins. In 2013 it sold 12 million. What is it that attracts so many people to these coins?

To begin with there is the Panda itself. It has been voted the world's most popular animal. Some of the products that are named after Pandas are cars, banks, pots and pans, movies, software, restaurants, tea and toys. The tea is an interesting story in itself. Workers in black and white Panda costumes harvest the leaves by hand. If that seems funny, consider that the final product sells for around \$350 per oz.; so I'm not sure whom the joke is on.

Anyway, besides Panda products there are a huge variety of Panda coins. There are silver, gold, platinum, palladium, brass, bronze and copper coins as well as bimetallic Pandas made of both silver and gold.

The most popular series is the silver Panda. In 1983 the first silver Panda was issued. It's a proof coin that weighs in at less than an ounce: 27 grams to be exact. All 10,000 minted were distributed by one American company; Martin Weiss' Panda America. It was at Mr. Weiss' prompting that a silver version of the Panda was struck and he claimed the entire mintage. The 1983 silver Panda is

really quite rare in Proof 69 condition.

In 1984 and 1985, 27 gram silver Proof Pandas were minted. These are not quite as hard to find in high grade as the 1983 coins.

No silver Panda coins were minted in 1986. In 1987 a one ounce Proof Panda was released. The mintage was 31,000 and it's moderately scarce today. In 1988, no 1 oz. silver Panda coins were minted.



First of their kind: 1983 proof and 1989 BU silver Pandas

The start of the series for most collectors is 1989. Both Proof and BU silver Pandas were minted. Unlike the earlier years these Pandas shared the same design as the BU gold Pandas of the same year. The proof coin has a "P" in a circle to signify its proof quality. 25,000 proof coins were minted along with 255,000 BU coins. These are not particularly rare coins but they are no longer extremely common.

In 1990, the Panda coins can be split into Large and Small Date varieties. The China Mint used two mints to produce the year's Pandas: Shanghai and Shenyang. For whatever reason, the dates from the two mints are different sizes and shapes. The Shanghai version is taller and narrower than the Shenyang coins. These have come to be known as Large and Small Dates and many collectors try to have both. There was also a Proof version.

All the years in the 1990s, except 1999, have Large and Small Date varieties. In 1999, there are three varieties because the China Mint used three Mints to strike the coins that year.

While varieties are an up and coming area, most collectors start by just collecting all the dates or designs. That means as few as 24 different Pandas are needed to complete a BU set. This is also a relatively affordable goal. The highest priced BU silver Panda is available for under \$500. Many can be bought in the \$50 range, so this is a hobby that people with a wide range of budgets can enjoy. All you have to do is be interested in Pandas, which puts you in a lot of good company.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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United States



# From the NGC Archives: 1924 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle

Posted on 10/14/2014

*Generally acclaimed as the most beautiful of United States coin types, the 1907–33 \$20 piece was created by famed American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens.*

Living and working in Cornish, New Hampshire during the final years of his life, he directed the work of assistant Henry Hering, who did the actual modeling for this type.



The 1924 Philadelphia Mint double eagle is not a rare date, even in mint state, but nearly all of these coins endured the ravages of long-term storage and frequent moving in canvas bags. The inevitable result was severe and numerous marks and abrasions. How this superb specimen managed to avoid such abuses has not been recorded, but it remains in a fabulous state of preservation. The surfaces of this coin are almost unbelievably clean! A fully struck beauty, this gold piece possesses dazzlingly frosty luster and light, even toning of charming peach color.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.



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United States



# Stack's Bowers Announces Pogue Collection Auction Dates

Posted on 10/14/2014

*The D. Brent Pogue Collection is laden with rare and unique coins, including many that are the finest known of their date and variety. Stack's Bowers Galleries is pleased to announce the projected 2015 auction dates for these treasures.*

Stack's Bowers Galleries is pleased to announce our projected schedule for the series of auction events which will showcase what is certain to be far and away the most valuable rare coin collection ever to cross the auction block. Carefully formed over many years by D. Brent Pogue with the support of his family in Dallas, the cabinet emphasizes United States coins of the early years, 1792 to the late 1830s, but includes many other treasures as well.

“Excitement and anticipation have run high since first mention of this sale was made. Our team has been hard at work on all aspects of bringing these spectacular rarities to market. I’m pleased to announce the projected sale dates so collectors, dealers and others around the world can plan accordingly,” stated Christine Karstedt, executive vice president for the firm. “Future announcements will be made relating to displays, previews, books and, of course, the contents of each event.”

The collection is laden with rare and unique coins, including many that are the finest known of their date and variety. The Sultan of Muscat Class I 1804 silver dollar, a nearly perfect Gem Proof, is far and away the finest known and set a record when the Pogue family bought it at the Walter H. Childs Collection Sale in 1999. In the entire history of American numismatics there have been only two times when an 1822 half eagle has sold at auction: at the Harlan P. Smith Sale in 1906 and at the Eliasberg United States Gold Coin Collection in 1982. The Eliasberg coin, the finest of three known, was sold into the Pogue Collection, the other two examples are in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution making the Pogue specimen the only collectible example and unique in

that regard.

"We expect that the interest and excitement surrounding the D. Brent Pogue Collection will have a dynamic and very positive impact on the entire coin market," commented Greg Roberts, chairman. "The Proof copper, silver, and gold coins before 1840 would take pages to describe," noted Larry Stack, who has been key in arranging the coins for auction. "Add Gem Mint State coins and there would be another long list! No collection of this quality and scope has ever been formed before." Harvey Stack, who over the years was the source of many of the coins added, "It is a pleasure to work with the Pogues and also to see some of my favorite coins once more."

Connoisseurs and specialists in half cents, large cents, half dimes, dimes, quarters, half dollars, silver dollars, quarter eagles, half eagles, and eagles will have once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Once sold, no collection of this scope and importance will ever be offered again.

Dave Bowers, who has worked with the Pogue family for decades, is preparing three books in connection with the event—drawing upon assistance from staff experts and researchers. The first is titled *The 1822 Gold Half Eagle: Story of a Rarity*. This will contain not only information on the Mint and era in which these coins were made, but also an extensively documented history and biography of every person and company known to have owned or handled one of the three coins, with separate chapters on each of the three specimens. Per Dave's award-winning style it will be both interesting and informative.

The second volume, with Dave as the lead author, in collaboration with Brent Pogue and input from experts on the Stack's Bowers Galleries team and others, will be *The D. Brent Pogue Collection of American Coinage: The Definitive Sylloge*. This will include images and descriptions of well over 600 coins, their grades, pedigrees, and numismatic significance. This volume is expected to be a standard reference book for years to come.

The third numismatic work will be an extensively illustrated volume on the most popular, most eagerly sought coins in the collection, coins that will cross the block to become treasures for their new owners. "These coins are presented for their numismatic appeal and place in American history and because they represent a unique opportunity to acquire superb specimens that in many instances have been off the market for a generation or more," stated Brian Kendrella, president. "In just a few weeks we will be unveiling a special section of our website dedicated to this collection and to special events and previews as they are scheduled."

Each sale will be held in New York City. The projected dates are as follows:

- Thursday, May 14, 2015
- Thursday, October 1, 2015
- Thursday, February 18, 2016
- Thursday, May 19, 2016
- Thursday, September 22, 2016
- Thursday, February 16, 2017
- Thursday, May 18, 2017
- Thursday, September 21, 2017

If you would like to receive continuing information on the sale of the D. Brent Pogue Collection, without obligation, just contact Christine Karstedt by email at [ckarstedt@stacksbowers.com](mailto:ckarstedt@stacksbowers.com). More information will be posted regularly as available at [www.stacksbowers.com](http://www.stacksbowers.com).

*This is a guest article. The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.*

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# Baldwin's Numismatics Moves to 399 Strand

Posted on 10/14/2014

*Renowned numismatic dealer and auctioneer A.H. Baldwin & Sons is delighted to announce that the company will join Stanley Gibbons in their newly renovated, bespoke premises on the Strand, London, starting Monday, October 27.*

Ian Goldbart, Managing Director said: "The move to join our colleagues at Stanley Gibbons represents a progressive new phase in the evolution of the Group and an exciting opportunity for our clients. We are thrilled that from October we will be based at the flagship location for a group of companies operating at the pinnacle of the global collectibles market."

Located opposite the Savoy on the Strand, the newly refurbished space will bring both our retail and auction clients an enriched experience. A new custom designed auction room on the lower ground floor will become the permanent home for our prestigious London sales whilst private consultation areas and a retail showroom on the first floor will now offer a dedicated viewing space for our substantial and diverse stock.

Our team will continue to attend auctions and numismatic fairs all over the world to source the rarest and best quality material available. Baldwin's Auction Department will still hold a full calendar of sales in Hong Kong and New York alongside our London sales at the new 399 Strand premises, conveniently located very near to Charing Cross and Embankment stations.

With a history dating back to 1872, our team of specialists have over 300 years combined experience covering all areas of numismatics including English, Ancient and Foreign coins, military and commemorative medals, tokens, books and banknotes. Over our long history we built up an impressive reserve of excellent numismatic items and provided important coins for numerous collectors.

In 2013, Baldwin's became part of The Stanley Gibbons Group plc, and can now offer collectors the complete package of coins, stamps, books, fine art and other collectibles. Our sister companies include fine art and antiques specialist 'Dreweatts & Bloomsbury Auctions', autographs and collectibles specialist 'Fraser's Autographs' and of course, philatelic specialist 'Stanley Gibbons', but we would like to take this opportunity to assure valued clients that all aspects of the Baldwin's business will remain the same at the new address:

A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd, 399 Strand, London WC2N 0LX

For further information on the move and on the forthcoming activities at Baldwin's or at any of our sister companies, please visit [www.baldwin.co.uk](http://www.baldwin.co.uk) or contact us on [info@baldwin.co.uk](mailto:info@baldwin.co.uk).

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